

Appl. No. 09/884,429

Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2A, 2B, and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 2A, 2B, and 6 replace the original sheets including those figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-77 are pending in the instant application. Claims 46-77 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

I. Election/Restriction

Applicants once again their election without traverse of Group I, which consists of claims 1-45.

II. Drawings

All of the Examiner's objections to the drawings occurred in Figures 2A, 2B, and 6. Replacement Sheets containing corrected versions of Figures 2A, 2B, and 6 are appended to this response.

III. Specification

Applicants are not aware of any errors in the specification.

IV. Claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112

All claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been cancelled.

V. Claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

All claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been cancelled.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form, and all other claims have been rewritten to depend from claim 13 or claim 29. Claim 13 was modified so that it covered the subject matter of both claims 13 and 14, so claim 14 was cancelled. Since all of the remaining claims fall within the allowable subject matter specified in the Office Action, Applicants assert that all of the remaining claims are allowable.

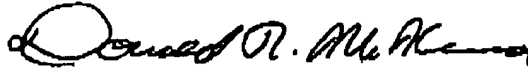
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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by Donald R. McKenna on March 21, 2005

Signed: 